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A Legislative Building

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A LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

BY

CHARLES LEROY GUSTAFSON

T H E S I S

FOR THE

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

IN

ARCHITECTURE

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

JUNE 1st, 1912.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY

CHARLES LEROY GUSTAFSON

ENTITLED A LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ARCHITECTURE

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226383



PROGRAMME FOR A LEGISLATIVE BUILDING.

LOCATION

This building is one of a group of four buildings to be erected for the state of in its capitol city. It is to embody the highest type of Architecture, and should be a monument exemplifying the high standing of the state.

This group of buildings is to be located on a plot of ground set aside for this purpose, within the city, and about three miles from the center of the business district.

This location is considerably above all other parts of the city, except at rear, which runs back at about the same level. The total area is about one hundred and fifty acres, the whole of which is to be used in the forming of Capitol Park.

The park will be approached from the front by a broad avenue, which slopes directly away toward the business center. At the rear is a union of three streets, radiating at different angles. Either side may be approached from as many streets as the designer feels is necessary for the carrying out of the scheme.

The grounds are to be planned in strict harmony with the plan of the buildings, and are to be embellished with suitable statuary, fountains, walks, drives, etc.

It is desired that this building shall have a dome of monumental character, and this building shall face East, toward the main avenue.



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The other buildings of the group shall be a Supreme Court Building, in which all the branches and departments of this court shall be housed, and two office buildings, one for the Senators, and the other for the Representatives.

IN GENERAL

The Legislative Building is to provide for the present and future use of the general Assembly, its officers, committees, and employes, and furnish a convenient, and monumental housing for the State Historical Library, and those officers, and employes, connected with it.

It is desired that the branches of the law making department, be entirely separated from each other, so the business of one may be carried on without the interference of the other, and that both these bodies be separated from the Library and its offices and at the same time both the Senate and House should be connected with the Library for the convenience of the members of these two bodies.

In the planning of this building it is desired that ample provision be made for the housing of statuary, such as life size figures of great statesmen, generals, and so forth, and a few small groups of statuary.

This statuary may be taken care of in the memorial hall, or a splendid corridor, well lighted.

Ample stairway accommodations should be made for the public, and for private use. Especial attention must be paid to the matter of sufficient circulation for the public, and such

private circulation be provided as to enable the officers to move about with the greatest freedom and dignity.

The building must have important entrances at the front and rear, and private entrances to both branches should be provided.

Care must be taken to secure the best acoustic properties in the two meeting rooms of the congressmen.

THE SENATE

The Senate chamber is to provide seating and desk accommodations for at least fifty Senators, and each desk shall be allotted about twenty square feet. Aisles must be provided so that each seat be reached from an aisle at least on one side.

The treatment of the room shall be elegant, and monumental in character. Its appointments are to be complete, and of the highest type. The room shall be lit by a skylight.

The President's rostrum is to provide seating space for the President and two other persons. At the clerks desk at a lower level seats for five persons, and on the floor level before the rostrum, a space should be provided for reporters, large enough to seat five persons. Some clear space should be provided for persons having privileges of the floor.

There shall be a gallery overlooking the floor. This gallery should be reached easily from the public corridor, and also from the chamber.

In the Senate wing should be provided six large committee rooms with retiring rooms in connection. These rooms are

to be finely appointed and shall be furnished in the best possible manner. It is desired that these rooms be reached from the public corridor. In addition to these rooms at least fifteen other rooms shall be provided for the use of small committees, etc.

A main lounging room for Senators, should be provided, and suitable toilet and coat room facilities.

THE HOUSE

The House of Representatives shall accommodate two hundred desks with seats, and these seats shall be reached at least on one side by an aisle. About fifteen square feet per person is to be allotted for a seat and desk.

This chamber is to be similar in character, and general design to the Senate room, but will be larger , and its balconies must accommodate at least twice as many people. The seating arrangement for the speaker, and clerks will be similar to that for the Senate.

This branch of the Legislature shall have at least eight large committee rooms, and at least twenty-five smaller committee rooms. A large lounging room and several reception rooms shall be required, and suitable toilet and coat room facilities.

THE LIBRARY

The Historical Library, as stated above shall be planned separately from the Legislative Building, but will be connected with it by suitable public, and semi public corridors.

The character of this building shall be in keeping with that of the main building, but shall also possess the

requirements of a library.

The purpose of this library shall be to provide a suitable and convenient place for the housing of State Historical records, its maps, original papers, and documents, etc., and such historical and other literature as will be enjoyed by the people of the state. In addition to this, space shall be provided for the placing of cases holding relics of war, etc.

As the purpose of this library shall be of two kinds it is desired that it be so planned to accommodate the mere sight seer, and those who desire to inspect and read.

There shall be a central room, with space provided, for the librarian, and assistants, and one or two private offices opening off.

Suites of offices for other officers in charge of the Historic and statistic branch of the government shall be provided for, in connection with the Library, and opening off a public corridor.

A few rooms shall be provided for private use of officials, etc.

FLOOR REQUIREMENTS.

The entire building is to have a sub-basement for the running of pipes, conduits, etc. This story may or may not be above ground. A first story which shall be entirely above ground, and may contain offices of the different branches of the legislature but in general this story should be more or less devoted to un-important officials, and for the storage of records, to which

ready reference may be had, those officials in charge of the grounds, the buildings, etc., will have their offices in this portion of the building. The first floor under the Library shall be planned to house old records, and printed matter, and shall be so arranged that such matter may easily be reached.

All offices in the first story, not dependent upon the legislative bodies, shall be treated in plan, entirely separate from the legislative department.

All corridors, vestibules, etc., on the first floor, which are for public use or for the use of the legislators, shall be treated with as much care, as such rooms on the second floor.

The second floor shall be the most important floor, and will be the level of the legislative chambers, and the principal committee rooms connected with them.

The story height of this floor shall not be under twenty feet, and will be the highest ceiling in the building, except the library which may have greater height.

The third floor, and if a fourth floor is used, are to have a ceiling height of at least fifteen feet, and all public corridors, stairways, etc., shall be treated in a monumental way.

The library will have but one floor above the first floor.

SOLUTION:-

In the designing of this building, it has been the constant aim to create something of imposing and monumental character, embodying elegance, stability, and an impression of

great wealth. The character of the building has been carefully thought out, and an attempt made to produce a building of such design, that it would suggest only such a purpose as that of a governmental building.

While there is nothing in the problem that really calls for a dome, this treatment was used, since it has become a national tradition that buildings of this sort shall be designed with the dome. The people of this country have become so accustomed to this motive, and it is so closely associated with such building, it is improbable that a building of this nature would be accepted, generally, as being satisfactory, if the dome were not used.

To give the proper setting to the building, and to further increase the importance of the second floor, a great flight of monumental steps have been placed before the main entrance on the front, which leads to the level of the second floor. Under these steps is placed an entrance for the use of carriages, and also for people wishing to enter the first floor.

THE PLAN

In plan the solution shows a central rotunda under the dome, with wings for the two divisions of the legislature on either side, while the Library is reached by passing through the rotunda, around a monumental stairway.

This monumental stairway has been placed in the central connection with the Library, and it leads from the rotunda to the first floor main rear entrance under the Library.

Passing from the rotunda, on either side, an immense hall is entered which affords circulation to the great committee rooms on either side and leads to the Senate and House and their adjoining rooms.

It is seen from the plan that the large committee rooms are reached by a private circulation, this fact, still leaves it possible for them to be entered almost directly from the public corridor, or to make them entirely private, as desired.

These two monumental corridors, connect with the two chambers, and their appointments, by means of a cross corridor, reaching through the building at right angles to the principal corridor.

Within these cross corridors, are placed stairways leading to all floors, and to the balconies, and access to the Library is made from them. This latter circulation to the Library is of a semi private nature, and is for the use of the legislators, as well as public.

A close observation of this cross circulation motive will show that these elements are quite essential. They have been planned large enough to accommodate most any number that would be apt to use them at any one time. The stairs form an easy and convenient access to the galleries, and to the different floors. These stairs with the connecting landings overcome the inconvenience of the two floor levels.

A direct connection on the first floor, with the chambers of the two branches admits visitors who enjoy the privileges of the floor. The stairs within the chambers are for

the accommodation of the public, and those who use the private galleries.

At the rear of this close circulation will be found a twelve foot corridor, which connects with the Library. This semi public circulation also connects with like circulation, permitting one to pass to the librarian's desk without having to go through the Library. By this circulation it is also possible to enter a side entrance at the rear and go directly to the rotunda, without having to pass through any part of the Library.

Directly at the rear of the Rotunda has been placed a passage which acts as an easement at the head of the stairs, and also as a ready means for the public to use the side passages around the stairs for communication with the Library.

The Library is planned with a central motive, two long passages, in which are placed the Library material, cases, etc. and two end masses, which serve as entrances on the first floor, and as means of circulation, and for special rooms on the second.

The central portion accommodates the librarian, clerks and assistants and provides rooms for the employees private use.

The Library wings are planned with alcoves, each having a large window emitting plenty of light. The books are to be placed against the partitions which reach from the columns to the exterior wall.

This arrangement allows passage for people, without their going directly through the book shelves. The opposite side between the columns allows space for the placing of cases for trophies and memorials.

As to the two legislative chambers and the accessories surrounding them, they have been planned with the idea of convenience and service to the officials. In addition to the rooms for the transaction of business, ample space has been provided for lounging rooms, reception rooms, coat and toilet facilities. Private stairways have been provided that business on the upper or lower floor may be reached quickly and easily. Both the House and Senate chambers are shown semi circular in plan.

This plan is probably most used for this purpose, and it is unquestionably the best. It permits a closer seating arrangement, a more uniform distance of all the legislators to the speakers desk, and also assists in the accoustics of the room.

THE EXTERIOR

The exterior of the building is treated in massive proportions to give the idea of stableness and strength.

The center motive is treated with a portico and a pediment, which, of all architectural embellishments, is more significant of the center motive of a great building. It is intended that this pediment be filled with suitable statuary to enhance its beauty, and relieve any plainness.

The principal corridors shown in plan leading to the two branches, are treated externally as an immense colonnade, of great granite columns, couples.

The first story of the whole building is treated with heavy rusedicated masonry, slightly battered. The windows in this story are deeply recessed, and are shown with segmental arched heads.

A heavy belt course separates this story from the second. Just above this course is a balustrade three feet high, which gives scale to the building, and acts as a base for the columns.

To stop this colonnade, a special motive has been made of the secondary entrances in the main facade.

The two houses are shown with a half dome properly stopped against the high masonry wall of the connecting motive. The walls of this part of the building treated as secondary. The idea being, that the half dome showing above would give prominence to the part and would show that within this part there was the special feature. The rooms surrounding these legislative chambers are as shown;-secondary in importance to the main committee rooms entered from the great corridors.

The side elevation shows the treatment of the ends of the legislative branch of the building, and the general treatment of the Library, and the handling of the connecting links.

The exterior of the Library is treated with arches and doubled columns between, the same massive proportions are still retained, with perhaps the addition of more detail.

The center motive of the Library facade amply marks the main entrance to the building from the rear.

As shown in plan secondary entrances to the Library and to the legislative buildings are made through the end motives.

THE INTERIOR

The interior of the legislative building throughout, is treated in a dignified, and elegant manner without any

meaningless or gaudy ornament. Upon entering the building, the great height of the dome is felt in contrast with the comparatively low massive colonnade which one passes under in entering.

The high windows which admit light to the rotunda are treated with a colonnade which greatly interests the composition.

A well which admits light to the first story under the dome and which enhances the interest of the rotunda is placed directly under the dome. This is treated at the first floor with a beautiful balustrade, around which seats may be placed for the public.

Immense niches are placed in the four supporting elements of the dome to receive statuary. It is suggested that these groups be symbolic of the interests of the people of the state.

On the balustrade over the colonnade supporting the passage around the dome are to be placed life sized figures of great men of the state or nation.

The entire interior of the dome is treated in white and colored marbles, caen stone, granite, and polychrome terracotta, which is used in soft colors in the dome.

The two immense passages to the right and left, are treated with a barrel vaulted ceiling, which is struck from the same center as the arches supporting the dome. The full arch at either end of these halls are left open, giving a beautiful perspective.

The cornice of these halls comes at the second floor line and the vault is raised on a sort of attic above this. Penetrations are made in the form of arches above this floor, which

admit light, to the private corridors on either side.

The vault is treated with ribs which grow out of the coupled columns below, between the ribs panels of colored, ornamental glass are placed which admit light from the skylight above.

The private corridors on either side which communicate with the great committee rooms are reached through these monumental doors on either side.

These halls lead to the spacious vestibules which control the public and private circulation to the legislative chambers, and also to the Library.

The vault of the great halls is carried through this motive, and a cross vault is introduced, which makes the ceiling at the intersection of the two very interesting.

The two meeting rooms are somewhat different in plan owing to the difference in size. But on the whole they are treated similarly.

The walls are of Caen stone, with panels, marble is used for all columns and for most of ornament. The desks, and seats are of solid mahogany, and what draperies there are, are of red velvet.

The balconies are finished off with colonnades, and the seats are of mahogany.

The ceilings are handsomely ornamented with panels and symbolic ornament, and treated with a skylight, which admits light without any glare.

The rooms, surrounding these main rooms are composed of two reception rooms which are placed in the corners of the

building, near the stairway, an immense lounging room elegantly treated with pilasters, fire places, etc., is provided. Other rooms are for committee use, coat rooms, etc.

Passing through the rotunda, the monumental stairway is passed on either side by passages twelve feet wide. These stairs are intended to be very monumental in character, and are to be massive and well appointed.

The collonade surrounding supports an eliptical vault, which is ribbed and panelled in an elaborate manner. Mural paintings add to the beauty of this motive.

The first story, in this well, is shown to be of stone and rusticated in a well designed manner.

At the opposite end of the stairs one may pass through the corridors which lead around the library or pass into the central room.

This room is treated with an elaborately beamed ceiling, which will be of carved oak. The walls are of stone, and the columns are of marble.

The librarian's desk is placed in front of the windows looking on to the street, and the private rooms are placed on either side.

Turning to the right or left one passes into wide corridors, on one side furnished with cases containing trophies, relics, etc., and on the other side a colonnade separates the mere sight seer from the books.

This colonnade, the columns of which are one quarter engaged, with a thin partition connecting it with the exterior wall forms a series of semi private booths on either side of which are

found books, and historical matter.

The end motives are entered under three openings formed by piers, and contain a monumental stairway leading to the first floor and to the exits, two rooms for private study, or for public rest rooms.

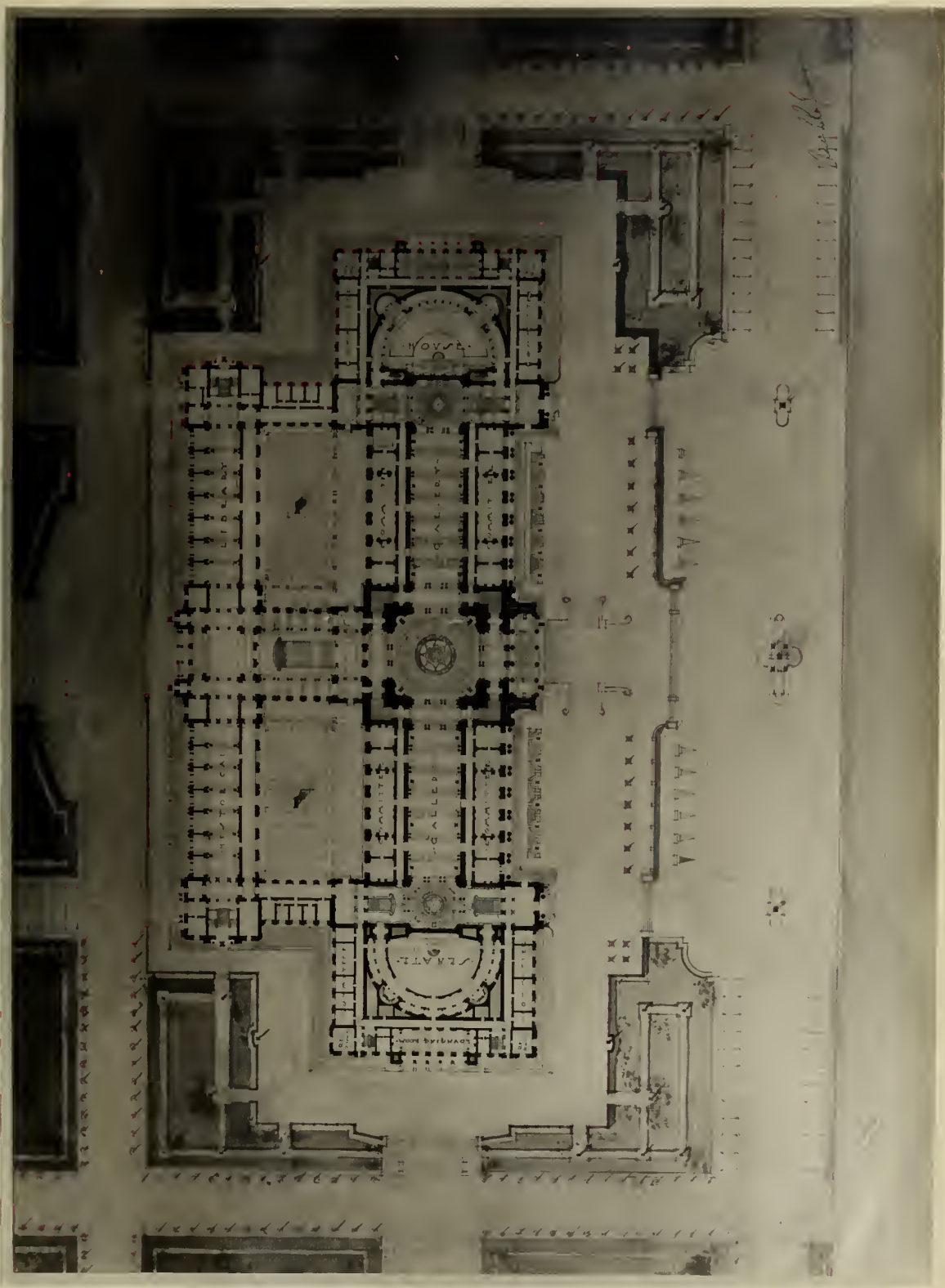
From these end masses the corridor leads through the connecting link, past several offices connected with the historical department of the state to the vestibules preceeding the legislative chambers.

The first floor is treated in a rather simpler, and more massive style, on account of its greater thickness of walls. The plan for this floor follows closely that of the second floor, with the exception more supports are placed where necessary.

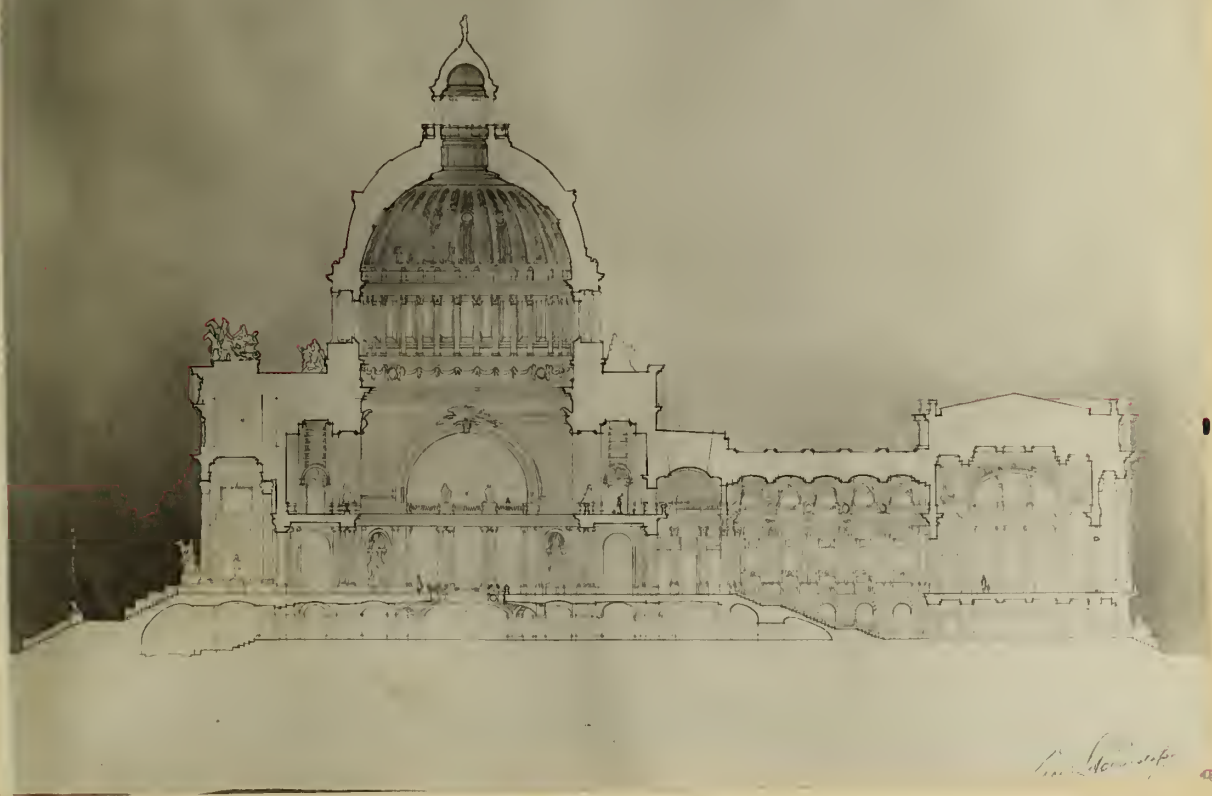
The third and fourth floors are practically the same in plan as the second. They are treated in much the same manner, as the principal floor, but simpler.

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